South Carolina Algebra Project

Goal: To provide middle and high school administrators, department chairs, and lead teachers with curriculum, professional development, and support so that they can help their teachers improve algebra instruction.

Curriculum: AgileMind Algebra curriculum. The AgileMind Algebra curriculum was inspired by research conducted by Uri Phillip Treisman and aims at supporting success for all students in high school mathematics up to Calculus. Technical requirements (per teacher): internet access in the classroom, an LCD projector, and access to a computer lab (1 day per week).

Year 1: 2007-08 School Year: Nineteen schools (middle and high) and 73 teachers are participating in the South Carolina Algebra Project. Each teacher and all of the teacher's students have 24/7 access to the AgileMind Algebra curriculum.

- Two day training (conducted by AgileMind/Dana Center)

- Five monthly follow ups conducted by the SCAP team (October, November, December, January, February). These follow ups have been conducted both during the week and on the weekends in order to respect teacher classroom time. The follow up sessions are professional development opportunities for teachers that focus on specific topics such as assessment.

- School visits conducted both by AgileMind consultants and SCAP Team members. The school visits focus on addressing the implementation issues.

Year 2: 2008-09 School Year

Scale Up: In order to work with more schools, we propose changing our support model. Instead of working with teachers, we will work with a district/school team. This district/school team will consist of a principal, assistant principal with curriculum responsibilities or department chair or lead teacher. The SCAP Team will work with this group and train them so that they will be able to work with Algebra teachers. For example, the SCAP Team will facilitate the development of building plans and will help the district/school team with the full implementation of the plan. In addition, the SCAP will provide online professional development that will be available to all teachers through Webinars, Blackboard, etc.

Timeline:

March   Letter of invitation to superintendents with application

April   Orientation meeting

May-June   Initial training for principals and teachers
             Two day "basic training" plus an addition training for the district/school team. That training will focus on implementation and development of building plans.

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